

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Applicant encloses herewith one sheet (2/2) of corrected drawings, and in particular by which outer shell 22 has been redesignated "23" in Fig. 4. This is in order to avoid confusion with the identification of the sloping top 22, also in Fig. 4. Approval by the Examiner of the proposed drawing revisions is respectfully requested.

**REMARKS**

Applicant has amended the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated August 20, 2004.

In brief, Applicant has amended the specification and drawings and in order to overcome the objections noted on pages 2-5 of the Examiner's reports. The claims have also been amended to overcome the various indefiniteness matters raised in the Examiner's report and are submitted to specifically overcome the rejections of paragraphs 5-11, pages 3-5.

Applicant has amended each of the independent claims, namely claims 1, 10 and 13, and in order to overcome the collections of prior art references cited. Specifically, each of the independent claims further recite the body as including a solid inner core (such as again being a solid foamable material), and about which the outer shell of material is formed, i.e. such as further being a polyester or a pigmented polyester based gel coat.

In contrast, each of the primary cited prior art references differs in that it does not teach or suggest a solid inner core of material. Specifically, Von Norring teaches a floating body having an open central inner space (see at 15), as well as bottom disposed apertures 16 for bringing fluid into the central space. The Examiner further cited Von Norring as teaching a core 14, however a further reference to its detailed description notes that the interior includes an outer space 13, and which contains air and floating elements 14 like pieces of sponge or cellular material, as well as an inner space 15, which further contains a certain amount of air (see column 1, lines 50-54).

Keller was further cited as teaching a plastic raft exhibiting a foam core and an outer shell. Keller in fact teaches a foam ring 12 of rigid polyurethane foam extending about a side

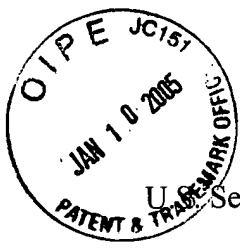
perimeter of the raft. Of further note, a plurality of individual pie shaped sections 15 are separated by pie shaped members such as plywood segments 21 and joined together by a plywood block 22. A significant interior volume of the raft includes an air chamber 13, and which admits or expels a given volume of air in order to establish a desired degree of pressurization, and to thereby adjust a height of the raft in the water.

Lekhtman further teaches a modular dock system and which includes a plurality of interior (open float) cavities. The top wall further includes accessory support holes, such as for railing posts or parasols. Of note, Lekhtman was cited as teaching a golf playing surface, the artificial turf further constituting a decorative indicia.

Addressing further the Bass and Mallory patents, Bass teaches an outer shell that surrounds a hollow interior. Mallory was further cited as teaching a foam core encapsulated by a polyester resin outer shell. Of note, Bass discloses a fisherman's lantern float, whereas Mallory teaches a multi-buoyancy buoy.

In contrast, the present invention (as specifically recited in amended claim 1) is directed to a swim raft exhibiting a three-dimensional shaped body with a substantially planar bottom, a curved side, and a sloping top, an outer shell constructed of a first buoyant material and which encapsulates a sold inner core constructed of a second buoyant material, as well as a decorative indicia associated with the sloping top. It is respectfully submitted that the collective teachings of Mallory and Bass do not teach or suggest the inventive features of claim 1.

Addressing further the several secondarily cited references, in particular Abeille, Treppedi, and Simon, the above-disclosed differences established between the amended claims,



U.S. Serial No. 10/777,393

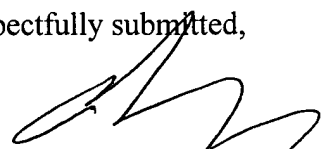
- 10 -

41118aka

namely again independent claims 1, 10 and 13, and the primary cited references, is likewise submitted to overcome the collection of secondary prior art references.

Attorney for Applicant may be contacted at (248) 647-6000 with any questions the Examiner may have.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Douglas J. McEvoy (Reg. No. 34,385)  
Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle, Anderson  
& Citkowski, P.C.  
280 N. Old Woodward Avenue, Ste. 400  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
Tele: (248) 647-6000  
Fax: (248) 647-5210

*Attorney for Applicant*

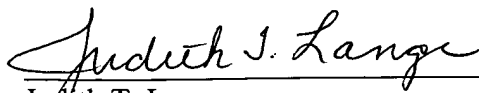
Dated: January 10, 2005

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"**

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER EV602285681US

DATE OF DEPOSIT January 10, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" Service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Judith T. Lange